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Applied Power Corporation Press Release

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Applied Power on "Solar Power Index" Team

Newton, MA, January 21, 2000 – Applied Power Corporation (APC) today helped launch the "Solar Power Index", a new weather reporting metric that will create greater awareness of photovoltaic electric power's ability to displace the use of fossil fuels used in producing electricity. Television viewers will be informed how much power a rooftop solar system produces each day relative to the amount that would be produced on a perfectly clear day. Working with partners New England Cable News (NECN) and the U.S. Department of Energy, Applied Power scientists and engineers helped develop the Solar Power Index and World Wide Web-based instruments to facilitate measurements and reporting. In addition to weather

instruments, a residential scale solar photovoltaic system has been installed on NECN's rooftop as an example installation. U.S. Senator John Kerry (D – Massachusetts) and Jim Rannels, Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Solar Energy Technologies participated with NECN meteorologist Tim Kelley in the first TV broadcast of the Solar Power Index this afternoon at NECN studios in Newton, Massachusetts.

The installation at NECN showcases the SunSine® 300 AC solar photovoltaic panel. SunSine® units are special solar panels that produce AC electricity directly from sunlight and can be directly connected to the conventional electric service provided to a home by an electric company. With the "Net-Metering" law in Massachusetts (and many other states) homeowners with AC solar panels on their roofs can generate electricity for some fraction of their household's electricity requirements, and purchase the remainder from the electric company at night and on cloudy days. In New England, each SunSine® panel will produce about 5% of typical homeowner's annual electricity requirements. By adding panels, the percentage provided by solar energy can be increased. On bright sunny days the power generated by the solar panels is greatest and can exceed a home's low, mid-day electricity use. When this occurs the home's electric meter runs backwards, banking the extra electricity with the electric company.

SunSine® AC modules were developed by Applied Power's electronics group working with ASE Americas, Inc. (Billerica, MA), that provides the solar cell substrate used in this innovative product. Conventional solar panels are DC (or direct current) devices and are used for charging batteries to power equipment in remote locations far from electric power lines. SunSine® AC panels avoid the need for expensive, inefficient and seldom used batteries by interconnecting

directly with electric company power lines. SunSine® research and development was sponsored initially by the New England Electric System, the parent of Massachusetts Electric Company. New England Electric has been promoting solar power and net metering since 1984 when it developed the Gardner (MA) Model Photovoltaic Community Project. More recently the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and 20 leading electric companies from across the country have supported the development and testing of SunSine® AC modules.

Applied Power's Ascension Technology Division, Massachusetts Electric and the City of Medford launched the Medford Solar Project last winter, offering a limited number of SunSine® panels at discounted prices to environmentally conscious Medford residents. The aim of the project is to make more people aware of the potential of solar power as a clean and renewable alternative to fossil fuels. The program will be opened up to all Massachusetts Electric customers this year.

Massachusetts is home to a concentration of leading and growing companies in the photovoltaic industry. Under laws deregulating the electricity business in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation will invest the $25-million per year Massachusetts Renewable Energy Development Trust to help develop the state's renewable energy industry and encourage greater use of renewable electricity by Massachusetts businesses and homeowners. Similar efforts are underway in other New England states, particularly in Rhode Island and Connecticut. The NECN reports of the Solar Power Index are aimed at building public awareness to support these activities.

The NECN rooftop SunSine® AC modules and monitoring instruments are part of the Department of Energy's program to promote solar rooftop installations. President Clinton announced the "Million Solar Roofs" initiative in June 1997 to curb the emission of Greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Applied Power's SunSine® AC module technology has been designed to support the Million Solar Roof initiative. NECN's reporting of the Solar Power Index will inform New Englanders how they can individually participate in worldwide efforts to stem climate change.

Applied Power Corporation Background

Applied Power, a subsidiary of Idaho Power, an IDACORP company, is North America's leading photovoltaic system supplier bringing clean energy to industry, businesses, utilities, homeowners and government. Applied Power has a wide dealer network to service renewable energy products and has over twenty years experience in System Design, Engineering and Installation, Project Development, Training, Consulting, and Financing. Corporate headquarters are in Lacey, Washington with offices in Washington State, California, Colorado and Massachusetts. Applied Power's Massachusetts and Colorado operations are organized in its Ascension Technology Division and focus on utility interconnected systems, instrumentation, and electronics development. Information on its products and services can be found at

http://www.ascensiontech.com. News releases and other information about Applied Power Corporation are available via APC's World Wide Web address at http://www.appliedpower.com.

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